

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 116841
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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TAGS: AORG, OCON, SEDU, UNESCO

SUBJECT: USG DEL TO SECOND SESSION OF THE INTERIM
COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS, UNESCO, PARIS,
MAY 23-30, 1978

REFS: A) STATE 113804; B) NAIROBI 6993

1. DEPT IN RECEIPT OF NAIROBI 6993. WE WOULD LIKE TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 116841

BRING TO EMBASSY'S ATTENTION SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH
MOTIVATED OUR REQUEST FOR WHITFIELD'S PARTICIPATION ON U.S.
DELEGATION FOR SUBJECT MEETING.

2. THIS SECOND SESSION OF THIS UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE WILL BE FACED WITH SEVERAL ISSUES SUCH AS A
DRAFT CHARTER AND UNESCO'S ROLE VIS-A-VIS INTERNATIONAL

SPORTING EVENTS THAT ARE OF A CRITICAL NATURE IN TERMS OF THEIR POLICY IMPLICATIONS NOT ONLY FOR UNESCO AND OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE ORGANIZATION BUT ALSO FOR MORE DIRECT U. S. INTERESTS IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS ACTIVITIES. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND OTHER NATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS ARE MOST CONCERNED THAT UNESCO NOT BE USED AS A WEDGE FOR EXERTING GREATER GOVERNMENTAL INFLUENCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THEY ARE ENGAGED.

3. WHITFIELD WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ASSET IN ASSISTING THE USDELEGATION ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVE. HAVING SERVED ON THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE FIRST SESSION, WHITFIELD IS INFORMED OF ITS WORK AND KNOWS OUR OBJECTIVES. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE HIS FAMILIARITY WITH AFRICAN SPORTS PROGRAMS, YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND CLOSE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH MANY AFRICANS WHOM WE EXPECT TO BE REPRESENTING AFRICAN STATES AT THE MEETING, MAKES HIM AN INVALUABLE NEGOTIATOR WHO CANNOT BE REPLACED FOR THIS MEETING. WE PLACE SPECIAL IMPORTANCE ON HIS PARTICIPATION AS MUCH OF THE IMPETUS FOR PRESSURING THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND FOR GETTING UNESCO INVOLVED HAS STEMMED FROM THE AFRICAN SUPREME COUNCIL FOR SPORT IN AFRICA AND ITS MEMBERS.

4. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS WE WOULD APPRECIATE
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PAGE 03 STATE 116841

EMBASSY'S RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION REPORTED IN ITS REFTEL IN THE HOPE THAT SOME ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE MADE WHICH WOULD PERMIT WHITFIELD'S PARTICIPATION AT SUBJECT MEETING. WE REGRET THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS NOT TRANSMITTED WITH ORIGINAL REQUEST IN STATE 113804. ICA/AF URGES FAVORABLE RESPONSE. VANCE

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